



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Clarksburg, WV 26306

August 15, 2018

TO: All Law Enforcement Agencies

RE: Requesting Participation in the National
Use-of-Force Data Collection

I am writing to you today to discuss the establishment of the National Use-of-Force Data Collection. At times, the complex policing scenarios our law enforcement officers face are subject to heightened media attention. The ability to better understand and discuss incidents where law enforcement officers use force is often hindered by the lack of data on a national scale.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) established the National Use-of-Force Data Collection at the request of our law enforcement partners, to include the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies, the Association of State Uniform Crime Reporting Programs, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Major City Chiefs Association, Major County Sheriffs of America, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the Police Executive Research Forum. This collection does not aim to provide insight into one specific use of force incident; instead, the data will offer a comprehensive view of the factors surrounding such incidents nationwide. With the support of law enforcement agencies nationwide, the National Use-of-Force Data Collection will provide valuable long-term data for analysis extending beyond one incident or one location.

Our goal is for this data to help you improve communications between your law enforcement agency and the community you serve as well as your communications with the media by having more informed discussions and increased transparency. The data collected will also allow your agency to analyze trends to help improve training methods in an effort to reduce these incidents.

The methods for collecting this data are designed to minimize the burden for data contributors, as agencies can choose to submit data in a number of ways. The National Use-of-Force Data Collection portal, which is available to all data contributors via the FBI's Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal, allows your agency to build tools and select capabilities enabling real time visualization of your agency's data.

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The National Use-of-Force Data Collection is about transparency and accountability. By participating in this collection, your agency will help the law enforcement community understand the facts about when police officers use force in the course of their duties. This data collection is an FBI priority and our Director supports it. The FBI and partnering law enforcement communities appreciate the efforts of early adopters who have already committed to these efforts. I am grateful for your cooperation in submitting your agency's data to the National Use-of-Force Data Collection.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas E. Lindquist
Assistant Director
Criminal Justice Information Services Division